

Maj. Gen. Tom Katkus
Commissioner/
Adjutant General
P.O. Box 112500
Juneau, AK 99811-2500
www.dmva.alaska.gov



Office of Public Affairs
Main: 907-428-6031
mvapublicaffairs@alaska.gov
PO Box 5800, Camp Denali
Ft Richardson, Alaska 99505-5800

PRESS RELEASE

Alaska National Guard

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 12, 2014

By: Lt. Bernie Kale

Rich Owens awarded Alaska Community Service Medal

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — Tastee Freez owner Rich Owens was presented the Alaska Community Service medal from Alaska's Assistant Adjutant General, Army National Guard, Brig. Gen. Mike Bridges, Feb 4th, in front of his south Anchorage restaurant.

The award, certified by Alaska Governor Sean Parnell, was for recognition of his contributions to the Alaska National Guard in support of Operation Santa Claus.

Owens has been supporting Op Santa for the past 11 years, volunteering his time, soliciting donations, and bringing ice cream sundaes to the remote villages of Alaska every year since 2002.

Mr. Owens was also presented an American flag from the Alaska National Guard Officer's Association that will replace the weathered flag that flies in front of his restaurant in Anchorage.

###

Photo Cutlines:

140204-Z-FZ583001 – Alaska's Army and Air National Guard Assistant Adjutant Generals, Brig. Gen. Mike Bridges (left) and Col. Timothy O'Brien, help put up a donated American flag in front of Rich Owens' restaurant Tastee Freez. Rich Owens was presented the Alaska Community Service medal, Feb. 4, for his support of the Alaska National Guard's Operation Santa Claus. U.S. Air Guard Photo by Lt. Bernie Kale

140204-Z-FZ583134 – Alaska's Air National Guard Assistant Adjutant General, Col. Timothy O'Brien, reads Gov. Sean Parnell's certification for Tastee Freez owner Rich Owens receiving Alaska's Community Service medal. Owens was presented the award, Feb. 4, for his support of the Alaska National Guard's Operation Santa Claus. U.S. Air Guard Photo by Lt. Bernie Kale

140204-Z-FZ583166 – Tastee Freez owner Rich Owens was presented the Alaska Community Service medal in front of his south Anchorage restaurant, Feb. 4th. Owens was presented the award, for his support of the Alaska National Guard's Operation Santa Claus. U.S. Air Guard Photo by Lt. Bernie Kale